
Interview: Brigadier General Francisco Visconti Osorio

'The idea of continental integration is necessary for our survival'

Venezuelan Air Force Brig. Gen. Francisco Visconti Osorio, one of the leaders of the frustrated Nov. 27, 1992 uprising who has been given asylum in Peru, granted the following exclusive interview to Dennis Small, EIR's intelligence director for Ibero-America. The general is currently in exile along with 50 other Venezuelan Air Force pilots and technicians. The interview was conducted in Lima, Peru on Jan. 29, 1993, and has been translated from Spanish.

EIR: The civil-military uprising on Nov. 27, 1992 posed the need for urgent change in Venezuela, in the economic, political, and moral arenas. Regarding the first, what is the problem in Venezuela today, and what are the proposals of your movement? What should be done with Venezuela's foreign debt? What should be done regarding the International Monetary Fund?

Visconti: Venezuela has its own peculiarities. On the one hand, it is the Latin American country whose natural endowments have enabled it throughout its history to enjoy the greatest resources, to be able to develop a life that fully satisfies the basic needs of its people. And yet we have a phenomenon in which all of these resources which we have access to have not been adequately used, but have been wasted. Wasted by poor administration and wasted by the effects of the corruption we have denounced, where in effect the arrival of a political party in power in Venezuela means *caudillismo*, as seen in the most recent cases. Upon taking power, that party becomes a modern-day chieftain, with its corrupt leader, and the resources of the nation become the loot which they end up distributing among themselves.

The result is that instead of growing and developing, the resources of this richest nation in Latin America have been diverted to become the illegal booty of the people who dominate the country.

This situation has been worsened by the fact that not only have the resources of Venezuela's productive process been wasted, but international credits have been sought and similarly wasted and misused by the same national leaders. That is to say, we wasted what we produced or what we obtained

on the basis of the productive capacity of the country's natural resources. And in addition, we have sought loans and also wasted these.

A real development process has not been advanced in Venezuela, although the capacity to do so exists. The results are clear. We are a country to which some 10 years ago, every Latin American wanted to go, because it was "El Dorado"; it was where one could find the best opportunities, from an economic standpoint. We have gone from that to a country today where critical poverty afflicts approximately 40% of the population; where the middle class—the buffer class, the class which in the past more or less enabled Venezuela to have a fairly reasonable standard of living—has notably shrunk. And instead of the middle class moving into the upper class from the economic point of view, it has become a poor class. At the same time, a large section of the poor class has slipped into critical poverty. From the economic point of view, the upper class has shrunk to approximately 3%, but a 3% with the unique feature of having accumulated practically the entirety of the country's wealth. Instead of there being more wealthy people, there are fewer people who count themselves among the rich, but they have more capital than the wealthy who had previously existed.

And so, the internal situation in Venezuela is becoming polarized into a vast poor class, and a very tiny, but very rich, upper class. This has never happened before. Before there was a middle class, as I have noted, which allowed the situation to be balanced.

Given this reality, what is happening or is going to happen? Well, there is the danger that, to the extent that the economic situation becomes more critical, to the extent that the recommendations of the International Monetary Fund continue to be unconditionally and excessively applied, we face the danger of a social explosion perhaps more radicalized than what occurred on Feb. 27, 1989. This could end up in anarchy. And who can say whether it might not degenerate into internal warfare, into a civil war, where the great mass of the population—which has no access to the means of satisfying its basic needs under an inflexible economic

policy exclusively linked to the interests of the International Monetary Fund and which fails to meet the true needs of the country, and in the face of an extremely wealthy and privileged minority class—will carry out the process of which we are speaking, an explosive and anarchic process which could lead to the destruction of the country.

EIR: So you are saying that the unrestrained application of the neo-liberal economic policy which the pope has so often criticized could lead to social convulsion?

Visconti: Could lead? No. Already has led. The only thing is that up until now they have been able to control and moderate it. The risk is that if they continue to apply those same prescriptions of the Fund, the measures indicated by the Fund, without any kind of moderation to meet the social needs of the population, the situation can become radicalized and uncontrollable.

EIR: One example of the problem is that of every \$3 of the Venezuelan budget, \$1 is used to pay the debt.

Visconti: Yes, that is so: Practically 30% of the national budget is used to service the foreign debt.

Now there is another detail. The situation of the Venezuelan foreign debt has not been clarified. Of course, the ruling class has every interest in not doing so. There is no certainty as to the true amount of the Venezuelan foreign debt. And there is even a portion of that foreign debt which is illegal. The financial world, the United States, the bankers have unofficially acknowledged this. But the Venezuelan government has not been interested in clarifying this situation, because they profit from it.

The Venezuelan foreign debt is on the order of \$35 billion. Of this, it is estimated that some \$10 to \$15 billion is illegal foreign debt, and that another \$5 billion, which also reflects a portion of the foreign debt, is fictitious foreign debt that the Venezuelan government maintains abroad, to be able to manipulate those funds and those resources for personal ends and for those of the ruling political group.

EIR: When you speak of clarifying the foreign debt, you mean distinguishing which part is legitimate and which illegitimate?

Visconti: Exactly. And to ascertain the real size of the Venezuelan foreign debt.

EIR: That is, of the legitimate part?

Visconti: Yes, of the legitimate part. Because what is illegitimate is not real. When we speak of a debt that I may have with you, I know what I legally owe and you are aware of the true amount that I owe you, not what you or I suppose is owed. So we must find out, must clarify, what is the true amount of what we have by mutual and legal agreement established as a commitment between two parties.

EIR: Our magazine has done several studies on the Ibero-American foreign debt, and on Venezuela's in particular, and has come up with the following statistics. In 1980, Venezuela's official foreign debt was \$24.3 billion. In the course of the 1980s—that is, during a decade of payments—Venezuela paid \$30.9 billion in pure interest on that debt. That is, it owed some \$24 billion and paid nearly \$31 billion. But by the end of this period, Venezuela owed \$34.8 billion—that is, more than it owed in the beginning. Do you agree that this reflects the problem of the illegitimate aspect of the debt, and that a good portion, if not all, of the foreign debt has already been paid?

Visconti: Yes, we estimate that the legal—or legitimate as

CAP represents the IMF and the 'new world order'

From an interview with Brig. Gen. Francisco Visconti Osorio, published on Feb. 3 in El Nuevo País:

There is an international and continental reality which currently exists and, unfortunately, CAP [Venezuelan President Carlos Andrés Pérez] operates in our country as a representative or spokesman for the International Monetary Fund and new world order, and the conception behind that new world order is to reduce, or possibly eliminate, the armed forces of Third World countries, to remove potential obstacles to the IMF's plans and dominate our countries. . . .

[Included in those plans] is the elimination of the armed forces, especially those of Latin America, to leave only the police forces; the spokesman of that new order in Latin America is the [Inter-American] Dialogue. They specifically propose this, which was supported by Venezuela's current foreign minister at the last meeting of the Organization of American States. . . .

That project's purpose is none other than to weaken or reduce the armed forces of the developing countries, so that they do not become obstacles to the new world order's pretensions, materialized through the International Monetary Fund's programs. . . . It's unfortunate that being a general in the Army, Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich doesn't realize how he is being manipulated, or how there is general manipulation against Venezuela's interests and against the national Armed Forces.

we prefer to call it—foreign debt of Venezuela should not exceed \$15 billion; that is, some 50% or perhaps 40%, or not more than 60% of what is today said to be the amount of

Venezuela's foreign debt. And of course, another aspect of this that clamors for attention is the fact that these debts, instead of diminishing as they are paid, keep growing be-

The real message of the November coup bid

On Nov. 27, 1992 a videotaped message was supposed to be shown on Venezuelan television, from the leaders of the coup attempt. Instead, a phony message was shown, which purported to be from leaders of the action, but which in fact had nothing to do with them. We excerpt here from the real message.

Adm. Hernán Grüber Odremán

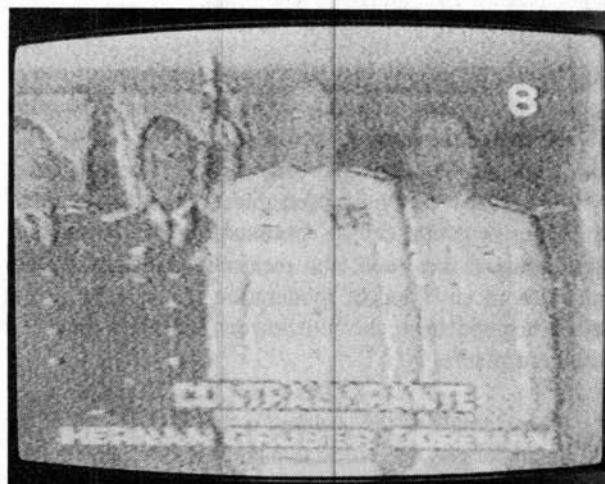
At this the Republic's vital hour, the Navy, Army, Air Force, and National Guard send out the following message: Events occurring throughout the national territory at this time are the epilogue to a regrettable situation, in which the Armed Forces accept the people's call to overthrow a government which betrayed the sacred commitment to serve the nation which placed it in power.

Men and women in uniform have sworn to defend the National Constitution, and by that, obedience to the government is tacit and understood to be our duty. But when that government violates the most elementary principles of coexistence, when it turns its back on the popular cry for peace within society, then, dear compatriots, there is no reason to continue obeying it. Because the conduct of the citizen and the soldier has as its supreme goal the protection of the republic's Constitution, which for the last several years has been trampled on by unscrupulous individuals who are unconcerned about the flagrant degradation of the republic's moral and material patrimony.

The government has ignored, in an insulting manner, the dialogue organized by immense sectors of national life to seek a peaceful solution to the crisis. . . . Perhaps they thought they were safe, because they had the support of the national Armed Forces; unfortunately, in many cases, they did, to the great dishonor of the Venezuelan soldier.

Yet we all know that this was possible thanks to the Machiavellian corruption of the military institution, placing in the highest positions officials who, with few exceptions, lacked the necessary qualities prescribed by law, and saw in this diabolical complicity the only way to attain higher rank. . . .

People of Venezuela, we are here at your side, answering your call; go out on the streets and show your support peacefully; this will be a civil-military government which



Admiral Hernán Grüber and other coup leaders in an image from the suppressed TV video.

will be presided over by civilians of recognized honesty and commitment to your dearest interests. We, the Armed Forces, are only here as a genuine expression of your will, to support you with the force of arms. Believe in us. . . .

People of Venezuela, how many tears are shed daily, and how much anguish is felt as you see the care of your family and your children's future slip from your grasp, while those who loot the national Treasury flaunt their luxury and openly try your patience. Therefore, compatriots, let the immortal words of our National Anthem resound in our breasts. . . . Long Live true democracy for which we fight today! People of Venezuela, go out on the streets and peacefully show your support for the new government. Viva Venezuela! Viva the July 5 Civil-Military Movement to save democracy! . . .

Brig. Gen. Francisco Visconti

The planes you see and hear in the skies of the Fatherland, the skies of Caracas, are the planes of Venezuelans, of our Air Force, which today are at the service of the rescue of Venezuela's true democracy. . . .

We men and women in uniform have sworn to defend the National Constitution, and by that, obedience to the government is tacit and understood to be our duty. But when the government violates the most elementary principles of coexistence, when it turns its back on the popular cry for peace within society, then, dear compatriots, there is no reason to continue to obey it.

cause of the interest rates charged. This is completely illogical. It is assumed that to the extent one is paying off a debt, the amount of the debt should diminish or, in the worst case, if the principal is not amortized, at least it should remain fixed. The phenomenon we are dealing with here, which is surprising and unacceptable, is precisely that even while interest is being paid and even when we have made payments on the principal, the amount has continued to grow instead of shrink.

EIR: Could we use the word "usury" to describe aspects of this process?

Visconti: Well, what we have here is economic manipulation of the debt on a world scale.

EIR: Regarding basic principles, would you agree with Pope John Paul II that legitimate international debts should be met, but not at the cost of the people's hunger?

Visconti: This is not merely the case with international debts; personal debts should also be guided by that principle. As an individual, I cannot subject my family to indigency or starve my children to death to meet an obligation that I have with another person. And the other must be reasonable from a human standpoint on this matter. That is, he should understand that I recognize the commitment I have made with him, I acknowledge the debt I have with him, but as a human being he should understand that the priority must be at least food for the children.

The countries of the international community must be dealt with in the same way. A country should recognize its legal commitments to another country from a financial standpoint, but the creditor country should also understand, from a human point of view, that the debtor country must first and foremost satisfy the basic needs of its population (food, health, housing) and afterwards, given the fact that that country recognizes the commitment it has made, should be given the ability to meet these international financial commitments without sacrificing the needs of its population.

EIR: I want to ask you a question about what has come to be known as the "Bush Manual," which now perhaps should be known as the "Clinton Manual," that is, Washington's plan for the demilitarization of Ibero-America, to reduce the importance, the weight, and the functions of the armed forces. The current government of Venezuela, that of Carlos Andrés Pérez, has played a very important role in promoting this policy, especially Washington's proposal to restructure the Organization of American States (OAS) to establish the principle that it is acceptable to limit national sovereignty and to intervene in the internal affairs of another country, to promote demilitarization in so-called defense of "human rights" and "democracy."

What is your opinion of this demilitarization program, and in particular of Pérez's role in the reorganization of the

OAS and of the Inter-American Defense Board?

Visconti: Well, this is not exclusive, it does not unilaterally affect Venezuela. This stems from a preconceived program on the part of those who direct and have formulated the proposals of the "new world order." It is a project that is being run, in the first place, at the level of the United Nations Security Council, to give the United Nations a supranational military force financed by the signators or member nations of the Security Council, and where the United Nations could decide to deploy these supranational military forces wherever the Security Council deems that world or regional peace is threatened.

Of course, we know that a United Nations in which all countries do not have equal weight or equal voting rights, is not going to respond to the majority interests of the international or world community, but rather, those nations which maintain veto power are going to shift the balance of the United Nations' decisions toward their particular interests.

EIR: As occurred in the case of Iraq, for example.

Visconti: As has occurred historically in every case. Historically, since the creation of the United Nations after the Yalta accord, things have been so: The United Nations has acted in the interests of those who have voting rights and who hold hegemony in decision-making. This is what is happening now, with the difference that as the world has been de-polarized, there is a single hegemonic center.

What does this mean? That the United Nations is essentially going to depend on the interests of that hegemonic center and those which are directed linked with that center. Herein lies the danger of such a decision.

This, of course, has region-wide implications. In our regional forum, which is the Organization of American States, there are attempts to implement a similar policy or decision. The Organization of American States argues that in order to preserve regional peace and the governments they currently call democratic, but which are party-democracies or pseudo-democracies, a supranational armed forces at the regional level also has to be created.

The Armed Forces run by the Organization of American States, through the Inter-American Defense Board, are supposed to become the leadership or vanguard military body of these military forces. And these armed forces are going to be endowed with the power to intervene in our countries, whenever the supposed interests of the region are placed above the interests of the country in question.

But once again, we have the disadvantage that the hegemonic decision-making center at the world level is in the region, and is therefore going to be the hegemonic decision-making center at the regional level. It is going to be the decisions of that country, which practically has veto rights in the Organization of American States—perhaps not in terms of regulations, but in terms of power—which are going to say where and when those armed forces are going to be

Within our armed forces, a nationalist current is growing stronger by the day. And that growth of a nationalist conception of the armed forces in our countries is becoming and is perceived as an obstacle to the interest of those behind the "new world order."

employed, to the detriment of the countries of the region.

And of course, this is a very sensitive matter from the national standpoint of our countries, because it is going to limit our national sovereignties.

EIR: Then you oppose this idea of limited sovereignty.

Visconti: Of course. At no point can we accept any decision that imposes limitations on our countries. And what is even more sensitive is the following: that with the reduction of our armed forces, because part of this American project is also to seek a reduction of the armed forces of each country, the budgets that are used by these armed forces would go to finance the supranational armed forces run by the Organization of American States. . . .

What is behind all this is not only a reduction of the armed forces themselves for financial reasons, but also the elimination of the armed forces because it is becoming clear that within each of our armed forces, a nationalist current is growing stronger by the day. And that concept, that growth of a nationalist conception of the armed forces in our countries is becoming and is perceived as an obstacle to the interest of those behind the "new world order," who seek to manipulate and have access to the raw materials of our countries, without there being any firm opposition from any sector of national life in those countries.

The armed forces are an institutional body in our republics, which has weight and influence over the decisions that our governments can make.

EIR: And they are not going to easily accept either limited sovereignty or the uncontrolled payment of the debt that leads to social convulsions.

Visconti: That is so. And not only the armed forces. The population as a whole must become aware that we must oppose this. We have absolutely to oppose limitation on our sovereignty and we have absolutely to oppose any economic projects or programs that drive our society into indigence, and that prevent us from meeting the basic needs of our populations.

EIR: Why does President Carlos Andrés Pérez support demilitarization? Why does he support the transformation of the OAS into this kind of supranational body? Why does he

support the concept of limited sovereignty?

Visconti: Perhaps because he grasps it in a more limited, even good-faith fashion . . . because they see that to the extent the size of our armed forces is reduced, they can continue to more easily benefit from, with less opposition, the current political system in our country. And the argument they use is the need to preserve their alleged democracy, which is not democracy, but *party-ocracy*.

So I think that in a mistaken way, and perhaps without realizing the real consequences this may have from the standpoint of national versus foreign interests, they play the game, fall into the trap, and perceive only the smaller or limited benefit they might derive in terms of internal politics, to perpetuate themselves within the party-ocracy predominating in our nations.

By reducing the armed forces, the possibility of opposing this party system is reduced.

EIR: What do you think of the famous Thornburgh Doctrine, the idea endorsed by the United States Supreme Court according to which that country proclaimed its right to intervene and kidnap in any country of the world?

Visconti: Yes, I believe there was some experience with Mexico in that regard?

EIR: With Mexico and with Noriega.

Visconti: Ah. And Panama. Well, that has to be unacceptable. The international system, the world system must definitively reject such a unilateral decision on the part of one country to the detriment of and in violation of the most elementary rights that each country has as a function of its sovereignty. In my opinion, it is inadmissible.

EIR: Venezuela is not the only country where there has been opposition to the "demilitarization" manual from Washington. There has been opposition in Brazil, and also in Chile and in Argentina, in particular from the so-called *carapintada* movement of Col. Mohamed Alí Seineldín. So we are talking about a continent-wide project, not only against Venezuela, but continental.

Visconti: And global.

EIR: What do you think of these other movements, in partic-

ular of the Argentine *carapintadas*?

Visconti: I have not studied these movements in detail. I must be honest: I haven't studied their various proposals. What I can say, however, is the following: Every regional or global movement that opposes the attempts of these supranational bodies to limit sovereignty and to manipulate our political and economic models so that supranational interests can seize our natural resources, has to be supported and integrated into a regional and worldwide crusade against those attempts.

EIR: How important do you consider the idea of integration, the idea of coordinating efforts among those who oppose this kind of project?

Visconti: The idea, the necessity for integration is nothing new. Our liberator Simón Bolívar visualized this when the first republics were being formed in the region, and we know historically that the consequence was the effort made at the Amphictyonic Congress in Panama. There the focus was precisely on integration.

Simón Bolívar was clear on this, and was aware that only through an integration of efforts could we move forward as nations and be able to develop ourselves as nations. He spoke not only of political integration, but also of economic integration. And from that time forward—we are talking about 1820—it was precisely the preponderant world economic interests of that era which sabotaged and opposed that integration.

It was England which at that time sabotaged, not only the meeting, but the goals that meeting pursued. Why? Simply, because both England and the United States at that time already foresaw that the integration of all the countries in the region was going to become an obstacle to the hegemony that they sought to maintain in the world from that point onward.

The famous Monroe Doctrine reflected this to some degree. The famous phrase of "America for Americans" was America for Americans, but for the Americans of the North, since the United States wanted to take away England's hegemony in the economic arena.

EIR: We are talking in particular about the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, which was applied by the Teddy Roosevelt presidency at the beginning of the 20th century?

Visconti: That is already more modern; we are still in the 1800s. England, which boasted economic dominion—it was the era of the dominion of the seas—opposed the Amphictyonic Congress. It sabotaged it, and the United States contributed to that sabotage because the United States was already aware that it had to seize hegemony from England to be able to enjoy it itself.

And of course, with that strategy, the United States saw that any Ibero-American integration was going to prove an obstacle to the objectives they pursued in the future. Later,

Teddy Roosevelt was also to practice that in this century.

EIR: But do you think that integration continues to be an active project or idea?

Visconti: Not merely a project. The idea of integration is necessary for survival. Only through integration, respecting the particular needs of each of our countries and the need for sovereignty of each one of our countries, only through a real process of integration which is not only economic, but also to a certain degree political, can we emerge from the critical and deplorable situation in which we find ourselves.

EIR: With regard to integration, one of the most widely distributed proposals on the continent in the last 10 years is that of Mr. Lyndon LaRouche, founder of our magazine *Resumen Ejecutivo de EIR*. It first appeared in writing in 1982 as *Operación Juárez*, and was then elaborated with more detail in the 1986 book *Ibero-American Integration*.

What do you think of the basic concepts expressed in those studies: common market, physical integration of the economies, development of infrastructure, and the rest?

Visconti: I have heard about those works—I have them in hand—but I haven't had the chance to read them. But based on what I've heard, I believe that [LaRouche] agrees with what I, in particular, have always professed is our need for integration. And presumably there are bases for agreements between what I think should be done and what Mr. LaRouche has already scientifically proposed.

Our regional economies must agree on development from the standpoint of the relative advantages of each one of our countries. And although this is not the ultimate goal, if we as a region were to close our border and establish complementary economic development—economic development where each country can undertake a sincere effort to find the maximum productive capacity of its relatively advantaged sectors—we will be able to subsist as a region.

Of course, the intention is not that our region should isolate itself from the international system, but rather that through this process of integration, through this process of complementary economic development, we should have the capacity, not only to subsist and to meet our own needs, but also to proceed in a consolidated way to trade with the rest of the world.

So, we definitely have this need, and not only on the level of economic development, but also on the level of the financial system and of the financial world, to which we should and can go as a regional bloc, to negotiate on more favorable terms than we would on individual terms. That is, we must work to negotiate as a bloc with the international financial bodies, and as countries which complement each other economically, to achieve regional development.

EIR: I would like to ask you a little bit more about the July

5 Movement of which you are a part, regarding its goals and the concepts behind it. First, a very direct question: Immediately after Nov. 27, you were labelled leftists. Are you or are you not leftists?

Visconti: We are nationalists. We are neither leftists nor rightists. I think that in our country today we cannot speak of leftists or rightists. In our country one must speak in terms of reality: the current crisis that must be resolved through an integration of efforts by every sector of national life which wants to consciously work to rescue the country from the political abyss in which it finds itself.

EIR: How would you sum up the political and economic objectives of the movement? Or perhaps the question should be formulated another way: If you had won on Nov. 27, how would Venezuela be different today from the way it is under Pérez?

Visconti: Of course, the reorganization of Venezuelan civil society would have already begun, through the genuine participation of the citizenry in the decisions of national life, leading to the restructuring of national life and its leadership. We were going to carry out the reorganization of the country from the bottom to the top, and where the organized communities would be the ones to select the individuals responsible for directing the efforts of those communities, starting from the base of our society, which is the neighborhood councils, and going from there to the mayoral and gubernatorial levels, to regional bodies, and so on to the highest leadership of the country. These would be the powers we already know: the top leadership of the Executive, the Legislative, the Judiciary; and we thought that there should exist two additional powers: a Comptroller and a branch in charge of selecting personnel, called the Selective Branch.

That is, the state should be guided by five independent powers: the three traditional ones that we know are a part of republican life, which are the Executive, Judiciary, and Legislative, and these two additional powers, which would be Comptroller and Selective Branch.

In all of these cases, it was going to function basically through the electoral process. And in those cases where the application of this method was not feasible, it would have to be by nomination, where the best qualified individuals for the job would be chosen.

And there would also have to be criteria by which public servants would have to undertake real careers in their various professions, to avoid the involvement in public life of individuals who lack experience or proper training.

EIR: All this is what you call "participatory democracy," instead of party-ocracy?

Visconti: I am against calling our electoral systems democracies. They should be called party-ocracies, because it is the exercise of politics through the parties, where the citizenry

cannot directly express itself except through the political parties.

EIR: The political project of the July 5 Movement is participatory democracy. Can you explain a bit more the economic aspect?

Visconti: From the economic standpoint, we are clear that given the crisis the country is facing, there are aspects which, while not necessarily long-term economic programs, nonetheless must be addressed immediately, on an emergency basis. And these involve the need to satisfy the basic needs of the population. We established certain priorities for meeting the basic needs of the human being and of the population.

We indicated that the population's first need is for food, and this yielded an economic project to find the means to produce the food that would satisfy this need of the Venezuelan people. From this came a program to address agriculture and ranching, and the Venezuelan agro-industrial process.

Then came health. A project was considered to develop, modernize, reorganize, and administer a Venezuelan health system.

But all of these things are premised on sector leadership. That is, to try to illustrate the issue of a Venezuelan health system, we feel that the communities must get involved in everything leading up to the national level. If there is a need for a health clinic in a small town somewhere in the country, the community should involve itself, even if it is the state which should provide the resources. It is the community which should administer the resources, which should maintain oversight over its functioning and its maintenance. For within the community, there is not only the consumer of the service, but also the professional who provides it.

One of the priorities of our crusade was to rescue the country and to eradicate corruption, which would lead as a result to there being more resources to meet national needs. A large portion of Venezuela's financial resources is lost through corruption and mismanagement.

What does this mean? That by eradicating corruption, financial resources are going to increase. Then the country, as well as the state, will involve itself on a priority basis in those areas that are going to be of benefit to all.

On the matter of industrial—macroindustrial—development, we believe that the country should maintain control only over those industries that it considers to be basic national industries. And it would maintain an opening toward privatization and the entry of private capital which wants to invest in the Venezuelan productive process, with all the facilities we make available. It would seek a policy of incentives such that private or foreign capital could take part in the Venezuelan productive process.

EIR: That is, to come to produce, not to speculate.

Visconti: Precisely, to produce. And this is the healthy